

DUMBRA

TUDOR MEWS

Judy & Larry Dumbra

As a teenager, I once drove (with two younger brothers) from New York to Indiana to spend my summer vacation with relatives. On that visit their crazy “little white dog” stole my heart. One day, I swore, I would have a Westie of my own. Fast forward fifteen years: As newlyweds, Larry and I were looking for a pet to complete our “family”. Larry dreamed of owning a Golden Retriever...You already know the outcome of that debate!

When we were unable to locate a puppy in the USA, we decided to search the United Kingdom. As a flight attendant with Trans World Airlines, a weekend trip was very feasible. Armed with an alphabetical list of breeders from the Kennel Club, our first day in London was spent on the phone in our hotel room. Those breeders we spoke to had no puppies available for us until we reached Sue and Andrew Thomson. Ashgate Lamlash (MacDuff) was the first dog of their breeding to cross the Atlantic to establish residence on US shores. The following year, Ashgate Tammy Tightbreeks also came home with us.

In 1976, Mary Lou Pross (Prosswick) not only owned Terrier Town Grooming, but also was president of the WHWTC of Greater New York. She encouraged us to join the regional club, as well as the parent club, and show our puppies. At our first match, Ed Keenan gave three-month-old Mac Duff a ribbon for sitting in the middle of the show ring. We were hooked on this show business thing! Next, we showed both puppies at the New York Specialty. We came very prepared (or so we thought), with pet shop grooming, collar and leash and a brush. After showing, Barbara and Bernie Rosenthal promptly escorted us to a vendor to purchase the necessary grooming tools. After two years of our showing, Tammy accumulated four points and nineteen reserve placements behind dogs shown by more experienced people such as Peter Green, Clifford Hallmark and Barbara Keenan. It was time to hire a professional. Cliff Hallmark finished our first champion in two weekends!

There have been many memorable moments in our lives because of our involvement with these “little white dogs”. Tammy won BOS at Westminster in 1980. When MacDuff won Group 2 at the prestigious Eastern Dog Club in 1980, Cliff Hallmark declined to take a photo, because “photos were for winners, not losers.” Our first homebred champion, Tudor Mews Tagalong Tulu, won Best in Sweepstakes at the New York Specialty in 1982. More recently, Ch. Glengidge Come Fly With Me was awarded an Award of Merit at Montgomery County in 1999.

Through the years, we have learned that the most important factor in this dog show game is not wins and losses. Instead, it is the wonderful people you meet along the way who become lifelong friends. Looking forward, we hope to always have at least one “little white dog” to share our lives.